

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 27, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 4

**Introduced by Assembly ~~Member~~ Members Hueso and
V. Manuel Pérez**

January 14, 2013

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 4—Relative to the United States-Mexico border.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 4, as amended, Hueso. The United States-Mexico border.

This measure would urge the federal government, including the Department of Homeland Security and the General Services Administration, to fund necessary improvements at the San Ysidro and, Calexico, and Otay Mesa Ports of Entry.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The United States, Canada, and Mexico signed the
2 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1993 to foster
3 trade among the three countries, and improve global
4 competitiveness; and

5 WHEREAS, Trade between the United States and Mexico has
6 more than quintupled since the implementation of NAFTA, totaling
7 \$500 billion in bilateral trade in 2011; and

8 WHEREAS, Mexico continues to be California’s number one
9 export market with \$25.8 billion in goods exported to Mexico in
10 2011, accounting for 16 percent of all California exports; and

11 WHEREAS, Ninety-nine percent of trade between California
12 and Mexico is carried by trucks; and

1 WHEREAS, The SANDAG 2050 Comprehensive Freight
2 Gateway Study projects that the nearly two million trucks that
3 crossed the California-Mexico border in 2007 will increase to
4 nearly five million trucks in 2050. In 2011, over \$33.5 billion in
5 goods moved between Mexico and the United States at the Otay
6 Mesa Port of Entry and at the Tecate Port of Entry; and

7 WHEREAS, The San Diego and Imperial Counties' border
8 traffic congestion and delays cost the U.S. and Mexican economies
9 an estimated \$8.63 billion in gross output and more than 73,900
10 jobs in 2007; and

11 WHEREAS, New land port of entry and improvement projects
12 are under federal jurisdiction with significant influence over local
13 communities; and

14 WHEREAS, The San Ysidro-Puerta Mexico Land Port of Entry
15 is the busiest port of entry between the United States and Mexico
16 and is undergoing a major reconfiguration and expansion project;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The Otay Mesa-Mesa de Otay Land Port of Entry
19 has plans for the expansion and modernization of passenger and
20 commercial inspection facilities; and

21 WHEREAS, The Calexico West Port of Entry also has plans to
22 renovate and expand the facility to process and expand its operation
23 for pedestrians and automobiles; and

24 WHEREAS, The collaboration between federal, state, and local
25 agencies is essential for the development of border infrastructure
26 projects and security; and

27 WHEREAS, The General Accountability Office and the
28 Department of Homeland Security estimate that \$6 billion in border
29 infrastructure is needed to fulfill their mission of preventing
30 unlawful entry and smuggling while facilitating legitimate trade
31 and tourism; and

32 WHEREAS, The need for improved border capacity and
33 efficiency comes at a time when traditional federal funding is
34 scarce and increasingly difficult to obtain; and

35 WHEREAS, Since February 2009, Congress and the Obama
36 administration have not funded border infrastructure projects; and

37 WHEREAS, The San Ysidro project has a stated funding gap
38 of \$285 million~~and~~, the Calexico project needs \$318 million to
39 complete construction, *and the Otay Mesa project requires \$161*
40 *million for completion*; and

1 WHEREAS, Various agencies of the United States, including
2 the Department of Homeland Security and the General Services
3 Administration, should work with Congress to provide funding to
4 support these border infrastructure investments; now, therefore,
5 be it

6 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
7 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature urges the federal
8 government, including the Department of Homeland Security and
9 the General Services Administration, to fund necessary
10 improvements at the San Ysidro ~~and~~, Calexico, *and Otay Mesa*
11 Ports of Entry; and be it further

12 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
13 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
14 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
15 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and
16 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
17 States.